the refund claims depending upon various factors namely, workload, available manpower, time taken for verification of payment challans etc. Because of these reasons there is some time lag between the date of filing of return and the date of issuance of refund. In some cases refunds are delayed because there is a deficiency in the return because of which refund cannot be issued unless the deficiency is rectified by the assessee. The details regarding claims for refunds disposed off and the balance outstanding for the period 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto June, 1999) are as follows:—

Financial year	No. of claims disposed off	Balance outstanding
1996-97	1,57,065	54,651
1997-98	1,82,484	76,616
1998-99	1,47,672	1,00,498
1999-2000 (upto June, 1999)	42,020	1,32,031

(c) The Government has taken a number of short-term and long-term measures for the expeditious disposal of refunds by initiating computerisation in the department, starting electronic clearing services, taking policy initiative to reduce the number of direct refund claims and also issuing instructions for time-bound disposal of all pending refunds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Restructuring of Indian Airlines

1223. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced a financial restructuring package of Rs. 325 crores for Indian Airlines for its revival;

(b) whether it is a fact that this financial package is linked to fleet expansion; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government is of the view that linking of release of funds with acquisition of aircraft would ensure proper utilisation of funds and permanent creation of assets for the company.

Violation of labour laws in Pawan Hans Ltd.

1224. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gross violation of statutory Labour laws is taking place in Pawan Hans Ltd., Delhi Office and in Kullu Office in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether contractual employees who have been employed through private contractors and have put in over 8—9 years service have still not be made permanent in service;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to grant them justice by making them permanent; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited engages contractors for certain types of works which are of purely temporary or intermittent nature. The terms and conditions of employment of the persons engaged by the contractors are decided by them.

Development of Madurai and Trichy Airports

1225. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to modernise the airports at Trichy and Madurai which are important tourist and trade centres in the country;

(b) whether there is any plan allocation from the Ministry for this project; and

(c) if so, when it will be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?